

HOUSE BILL 981

By Faison

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
Chapter 29 and Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3,  
relative to the Tennessee emergency medical  
services board.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-140-303, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

(a) There is created and established the Tennessee emergency medical services board by transfer and expansion of the duties and responsibilities of the EMS advisory council. The board consists of thirteen (13) members.

(b) Effective July 1, 2023, the existing membership of the Tennessee emergency medical services board is vacated and reconstituted, with the members of the board to be appointed by the governor as follows:

(1) One (1) physician licensed in this state who acts as the medical director of an ambulance service in this state;

(2) One (1) air-medical registered nurse with an EMS license (emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic) in this state;

(3) One (1) representative who is an administrator of a hospital-based ambulance service who is either a paramedic, EMS-boarded physician, or EMS medical director;

(4) One (1) paramedic who is the director of a private ambulance service in this state;

(5) One (1) paramedic who is the director of a government-based ambulance service in this state;

(6) One (1) paramedic with medical first response or transport responsibilities who is employed by an ambulance service in this state;

(7) One (1) administrator with a paramedic license who is employed by a fire service in this state that operates a medical first response service or ambulance service;

(8) One (1) paramedic with medical first responder or transport responsibilities that is employed by a fire service in this state;

(9) One (1) official of a county in this state that operates an ambulance service or medical first response service;

(10) One (1) official of a municipality in this state that operates an ambulance service or medical first response service;

(11) One (1) program director of an accredited paramedic program taught at an institution of higher education in this state;

(12) One (1) paramedic that is an instructor, coordinator, or program director for an EMT or paramedic program that is taught at an EMS agency in this state; and

(13) A paramedic that holds a community paramedicine endorsement in this state, or a paramedic employed by an agency providing mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) services in this state.

(c) In order to stagger the terms of the newly appointed board members, the governor shall make initial appointments as follows:

(1) The persons appointed under subdivisions (b)(1)-(4) are appointed for terms of one (1) year, which expire on June 30, 2024;

(2) The persons appointed under subdivisions (b)(5)-(7) are appointed for terms of two (2) years, which expire on June 30, 2025;

(3) The persons appointed under subdivisions (b)(8)-(10) are appointed for terms of three (3) years, which expire on June 30, 2026; and

(4) The persons appointed under subdivisions (b)(11)-(13) are appointed for terms of four (4) years, which expire on June 30, 2027.

(d) Members serving on the board as of June 30, 2023, may be reappointed to serve as members after such date.

(e)

(1) Members, except as provided in subsection (c) and those appointed to complete the term of a former member, are appointed to full four-year terms, or until their successors are appointed. In making appointments to the board, the governor shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) member serving on the board is sixty (60) years of age or older, that at least one (1) person serving on the board is a member of a racial minority, and the membership on the board reflects the geographic diversity of the state.

(2) Following the expiration of the members' initial terms as prescribed in subsection (c), all four-year terms begin on July 1, and terminate on June 30, four (4) years thereafter. Vacancies must be filled by appointment of the governor.

(f) The chair must be a member who is elected by the board. The chair may certify the actions of the board.

(g)

(1) The board shall meet at the call of the chair. The chair shall convene at least two (2) meetings per year, and shall convene such other meetings as are

necessary to transact the business of the board, or upon receipt of a written request signed by three (3) or more members of the board. Seven (7) members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings.

(2)

(A) A member who misses more than fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year must be removed as a member of the board.

(B) The emergency medical services director shall promptly notify, or cause to be notified, the appointing authority of a member who fails to satisfy the attendance requirement as prescribed in subdivision (g)(2)(A).

(h) The members of the board must be paid a per diem of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for attending board meetings and must be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in attending board meetings, ad hoc committee activities, or other travel incurred in the performance of their official duties, in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(i) The department shall provide administrative services to the board.

(j) The board shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of all its meetings, a copy of which must be kept on file in the office of the director and open to public inspection. Rules adopted by the board must be promulgated pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

(k) The commissioner shall appoint the director of the division of emergency medical services within the department.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules and carrying out administrative duties necessary to effectuate this act, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect on July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.